



Global AIDS Program

Program Profile — *Central America Region FY2004*

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.



About GAP Central America Region

Year Established: 2003

FY 2004 Core Funds: \$230,000 US*

FY2004 Emergency Plan Funds: \$500,000

In-country Staffing: 2 CDC Direct Hires; 3 Contractors

GAP Central America, located in Guatemala City, supports HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Belize. The office is a component of the Meso-American Epidemiology Research and Training Unit (HHS/CDC/MERTU) agency office, a collaboration founded in 1978 between CDC, the Guatemalan Ministry of Health (MOH) and the University Del Valle, Guatemala City. In 2003 and 2004, GAP worked closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) regional and bilateral programs to improve strategic planning for, and expand implementation of, national HIV surveillance programs, and to promote common regional approaches to HIV surveillance. In 2004, GAP developed cooperative agreements with the Honduras MOH and the Academy for Educational Development/PASCA, a nongovernmental organization (NGO), to further its HIV/AIDS surveillance and monitoring and evaluation (M & E) activities in Central America.

HIV/AIDS Situation in the Central America Region

Country ¹	AIDS Cases	Est. HIV Infections/Year	Cumulative Incidence per 100K (2004)	Last Updated
El Salvador	6,579	30,000 (2002)	99	July 2004
Guatemala	7,054	75,600 (2003)	53	October 2004
Honduras	16,363	60,000 (2002)	228	October 2004
Nicaragua	662	5,000 (2002)	12	August 2004
Panama	6,694	18,000 (2002)	211	December 2004
Costa Rica	2,546	20,000 (2002)	61	December 2003
Belize	706	5,000 (2002)	244	September 2004
Total	40,604	213,600		

Website:
www.cdc.gov/gap



¹ Data in chart compiled by USAID Guatemala HIV/AIDS Office.

* Funded by United States Agency for International Development through an interagency agreement.



FY2004 GAP Central America Region Achievements

Critical Intervention for HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Infrastructure Development

- ◆ Assisted Central American countries to develop a regional HIV/AIDS surveillance plan with a special focus on second generation HIV/AIDS surveillance. The regional plan serves as a basis for collaboration between GAP and regional MOHs, as well as a working document for individual countries to develop national HIV/AIDS surveillance plans to be completed in FY2005.
- ◆ Engaged Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to implement or schedule for implementation evaluations of national surveillance systems and national planning processes for revised and expanded national HIV/AIDS surveillance plans.
- ◆ Provided training sessions focused on behavioral surveillance, rapid testing, logical frameworks for planning, and second generation HIV/AIDS surveillance.
- ◆ Developed second generation HIV/AIDS surveillance training modules through adaptation to regional context and translation into Spanish; successful development of an HIV/AIDS data analysis training module and associated curriculum for provision of trainings in FY05.
- ◆ Provided technical support to a World Bank regional HIV/AIDS project, with a particular focus on supporting the planning frameworks for a regional HIV/AIDS reference laboratory and the surveillance component of the regional project. As a result of onsite evaluations, the Gorgas Institute in Panama was selected by the World Bank and individual health ministry representatives to host the regional laboratory center.
- ◆ Provided in-depth assistance to Panama to improve HIV/AIDS case reporting forms, program capacity for using EPI Info for data analysis and cleaning and to merge relevant databases with the national HIV/AIDS case database.
- ◆ Completed evaluations of national HIV/AIDS surveillance systems in Panama and El Salvador, and confirmed evaluations for Guatemala and Nicaragua for FY2005.
- ◆ Participated in the planning and development of the protocol for a BSS+ (Behavioral Science Study) to be conducted in Honduras. The methodologies developed are being used to inform approaches in other Central American countries. Two studies are planned by FY2005: a BSS+ in Panama, and a BSS+ targeting persons detained in corrections facilities in El Salvador.

In addition, in FY2004 the Central America Regional Office:

- ◆ Trained 150 individuals in surveillance methods;
- ◆ Trained 150 individuals in a CDC/GAP technical area;
- ◆ Provided support to eight organizations for M & E activities;
- ◆ Trained 18 country nationals in the provision of laboratory activities; and
- ◆ Supported regional laboratories that performed more than 2,500 HIV tests.

